

Cambridge Public Library & Cambridge Tree Project Eleventh Annual Poetry Awards

On May 27, 2009, the Central Square Branch Library hosted the 11th anniversary of the Cambridge Public Library & Cambridge Tree Project Poetry Awards. From over 800 entries this year, awards were given to 57 students from kindergarten through grade 8 before a packed house of family, friends and teachers at the Cambridge YMCA Theatre. Each poet read his or her winning poem and received an awards certificate and a poetry anthology, thanks to funding from the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library.

Following are the 2009 winning entries, in order as they were presented at the awards ceremony. Congratulations to our winners, and to all who entered such wonderful poems! Keep writing!



Dawn

rise beginning

dawn

levitate hypnotize

craving

I surrender to saffron glory's rays capture blind me coral beauty absorb emptiness

illuminate

you scrumptious pastry explosion of color first page of my novel

climb

fuchsia day

surge

lavender life

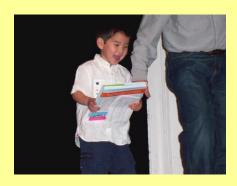
multiply

teal color

advance

auburn sun

Louisa Winchell Second Place, Seventh Grade Amigos School



Andy Smithwick First Place, Kindergarten Cambridgeport School

I Can Run

I can't run as fast
As Neal and
I can't run
As fast as Amanuel
But I can run
As fast as Mark.
That's just the way I am!!!



The Playdate in the Summer

hot playing kid in the heat so hot so hot it is hot and it is so so hot it is so so hot so hot that if we were ice cream we would be melting and if we were a hamburger we would be cooked like as hot as an over cooked hamburger

Ben Goudvis Third Place, Second Grade Cambridge Friends School



A Glass of Lemonade

Squeeze it.
Sip it.
Sunny, Refreshing, Cool, Ahhhhh.
Straight from the tree.

Feel the cold liquid trickle down your glass.

Let it go---down, down, down your throat.

Squeeze it.
Sip it.
Sit back against the stump.

Relax.

Sweetness to your mouth.

Let a chill go through your brain.

That tangy taste tickling your tongue.

Squeeze it. Sip it.

Lemonade from a lemon tree.

Raina Williams First Place, Fifth Grade Cambridgeport School



Nicolas Britos Third Place, Kindergarten Amigos School

The Roller Coaster

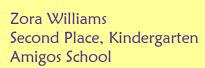
You go up and down And upside down to get to here.

It goes so fast that sometimes I think I'm going to get sick.

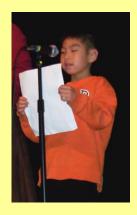
But do I like it? Yes...I like it!

I Love Animals

I love animals
As much as I
Love you. Happy is
Not sad. I make two.







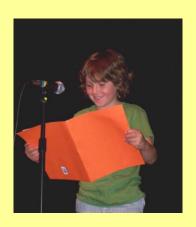
Phoenix Tamaoki Honorable Mention, Second Grade Peabody School

Cats

cats
a restaurant for fleas
serving
blood
every
day

Mouse Catching

Put the swiss in the trap and SNAP, SNAP, SNAP!



Elliott Rodriguez Honorable Mention, Second Grade Cambridge Friends School



Romain Marseille Second Place, First Grade Fletcher Maynard Academy

Snake Bracelet

It slithers on the table. And slithers on my arm. Makes a bracelet on my hand.

Serpent



Serpent
Slithering, sliding, gliding
Rears to his snaky tail, fangs glittering, forked tail flecked with poison.
bending in a majestic graceful arc
Venom distilled from the flames of the dragon's
fangs glittering like twin silver scimitars
It strikes! Bite like searing light! A pain rivaling no other
Now back, slithering, sliding, gliding,
To rejoin the darkness where its sleek body feels at home
Serpent.

Jacob Kiely-Song Second Place, Fifth Grade Cambridge Friends School

Hare's Lair

A hare hops through the woods to find his very own lair. He hops and hops and hops but doesn't seem to find it there. He finally reaches his very own house but instead what he sees is a teeny tiny mouse.

Imagine!

Vrinda Mathur Third Place, First Grade Cambridgeport School



Owen Fagan Second Place, Second Grade Amigos School

Monkeys

Monkeys like the capuchin
Have white and funny faces
Other ones like the
Night Monkey can hide in small spaces.

Proboscis monkeys have big floppy noses, Spider monkeys of course like silly poses. The Bald Okapi is very mean Howler monkeys like to loudly scream!

My Stuffed Lamb

White and soft the color of cream and fur like a marshmallow flop ears and a brown vest her eyes are blue like a blueberry a pink nose and noisy feet that go klic klac runs away from the dogs Ruff! Ruff!

Soli Martin-Abascal Second Place Place, First Grade Cambridge Friends School



Julia Clardy First Place, Second Grade Cambridge Friends School

My Tree

All the way up there
There with those big, green leaves?
That's my tree.
All the way up there
There with those big, wide branches?
That's my tree.
All the way up there
There with that dark brown bark?
That's my tree.
All the way up there
There with that sticky sap?
That's my tree.
Julia's tree,
There,
Up there.

Leaves

My veins are like Lighting exploding My skin is green Like spring grass My stem is long Like a palm tree



Dennis Marshall III Third Place, Second Grade Peabody School



Mystery Plant

A tiny shrub of minty fresh scent, perfect for a tiny insect shelter

Each leafy green branch droops to the ground like it's looking for a friend down there

The color like green growing grass soft and spiky

Allegra Berger Third Place, Fourth Grade Amigos School

The Real Deal Plants



Seeds are deep Like a lake In the soil Yellow orange Sun bright Giving sunshine To the seeds Try to grow Tall as a giant Shhhh raindrops fall On the plant Gentle breezes Touches the plant Seeds begin to grow Tall as me Violets. Daffodils Lilies and Roses All grown-up now.

Kiara Osiris Honorable Mention, Fourth Grade Martin Luther King, Jr., School

Truth

I watched the tree move ever so swiftly
As the lightning streaks the sky the pinkish sky,
Illuminating the darkness,
Unceasing

I saw the tree fall blank into the street, Leaving just a fraction of the truth left, Waiting to grow again

I ran back inside,
Shutting the door behind me,
To secure my body from getting struck by lightning,
Like the tree,
Gone and now useless

I wonder if this was just a message,
If I will ever see something so wonderful but dangerous,
Unexpected but confusing

Phaëdra Mehu Third Place, Eighth Grade Fletcher Maynard Academy

Seasons of Trees

In spring,

The green jade beads of youth adorn your slender arms. As you dance with a light heart,

A cloak of mist putting you in mystery.

In summer.

The shining leaves of passion drape over your long arms. As you sing with a delighted soul, A shower of rain leaving you fresh.

In autumn,

You shed the green into fiery gown of maturity. As you pin your hair with a fascinated mind, A bit of frost lining your gown like lace.

In winter,

You change into the sparkling silver garments of innocence. As you rise to full height,

The diamond posklase of icides leaving you confident as ever

The diamond necklace of icicles leaving you confident as ever.

Amy Zhao Second Place, Sixth Grade Kennedy Longfellow School

Trees

Branches sticking out like arms
Standing up straight
Their bark...their winter coat
The freshly fallen snow
Coats them
Leaving a white blanket of protection
Trees

Carole Burke Third Place, Sixth Grade Fletcher Maynard Academy

Who Am !?

I am of the ice...
Cold that ripples from my fingertips...
To the spring-loaded tips of my toes.
I am the white wolf...
Neck erect...
Perfectly symmetrical...
Howling at the moon...



In a barren field of snow.

I am the icicle...

Hanging off the wire in mid-December...

A cold dagger, poised...

To fall and shatter.

¿Quien soy yo?

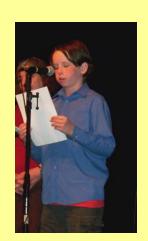
Yo soy de el hielo...
Un frio que susurra de mis dedos...
Al salto puntas de mis dedos pies.
Yo soy el lobo blanco...
Cuello erige...
Perfectamente simétrico...
Rugir en la luna...
En un campo áride de nieve.
Yo soy el carémbano...
La ahorcadura del alambre a mediados de dicembre...
Un puñal frio, equilibrado...
Para caerse y quebrantar.

Peter "Jamie" McCann First Place, Eighth Grade Peabody School

The Tree

The snow crunches under my feet as I walk around your trunk. Huge sweeping limbs over my head. Your bark is peeling and your branches are old, You are a tree with a soul, a tree with a personality, you have Weathered the seasons, let no force of man or nature take you down.

Lucas Gibson Honorable Mention, Fifth Grade Haggerty School



A Single Snowflake

I am a crystal,
An ice pattern of wonder.
I am the sound
Of wind chimes.
I am the biting cold
That falls from the sky.
I am the rain of
Winter freshness.
The clouds in the sky

Whiz past.
I hope, I hope.
I am a snowflake.

Emily Rucker Third Place, Fifth Grade Peabody School



Emily Olick Llano Third Place, Fifth Grade Peabody School

Nature's Music

All around me
The woods are alive
As I gaze up,
Sunlight peeks through at me
From the open bright sky
Through the swaying leaves.

Covered in droplets of fresh water
That gleam in the dim light
And shine like pearls
Are the leaves
Making music as the droplets roll off
And hit the ground
Gently.

Me

And eat moons and stars.

My body is like a planet, My arms are like the transparent atmosphere, my legs are the gravity, my eyes are the continents. My heart is my core that holds entertainment that is as red as lava. I live in a planet

Marvin Vital Second Place, Fifth Grade Benjamin Banneker Charter School

Noche y Dia #2



Me gustan las noches porque puedo ver la luna, las estrellas y tambien por el dia puedo oir los pajaritos cantar

I like the night because I can see the moon, the stars. also by day I can hear the songs of little birds.



Angell Muñoz Third Place, Kindergarten Amigos School

A Tiny Handful of Sand



A tiny handful of sand slips between your fingers, seagulls cry upon the blue sky, white caps crash against rocks that fade, then hit again.

Hot dry sand mingles into wet cold sand, that cools your feet as waves lap over them

Grass sticks up and whistles a song.

The waves send up a refreshing spray.

No one else is there, no human, just you.

Celeste DeLancey First Place, Fourth Grade Cambridgeport School



Magdalyn LaMaster Honorable Mention, Third Grade Peabody School

Beftu Sultan Second Place, Third Grade Morse School



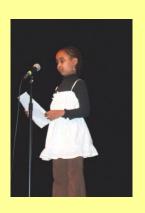
The River

Rushing
Gushing
Flowing fast
River river of the
past

Flowing Rowing Flying fast My little river Running past

Untitled

The white herons flew Over the vast blue ocean They fly there no more



At The Beach

The cool waves roll onto the soft sand,

The gulls call over head The smooth pebbles on the sand,

The good smell of hot dogs from the hot dog stand,

The faint jingle from the Ice

cream truck, the smell of salt water on the sand.

Liana Goodwin Nogic Second Place, Second Grade Amigos School

The Shell

A spinning tornado caught in the sand.

A dotted spiral is the back of a snail.

Makeisha Jean Baptista First Place, First Grade Fletcher Maynard Academy

Wind howls wind blokes

Wi

Mia Bawendi Third Place, First Grade Cambridge Montessori School

Wind



The wind can be pleasant The wind can be harsh The wind dwells on low land The moor or the marsh The wind dwells on high land The mountains or Alps The wind comes unpleasantly And twinges our scalps On soft summer nights When the sun is a haze The wind blows so gently And stays there to graze On cold winter days When the sky is dark blue It creeps up on us And blows through me to you The wind changes fast As you find out in spring Though it be pleasant The birds might not sing For in their wee heads A warning is flashing "Do Not Go Out For The Wind May Be Lashing" That is all I will tell you And nothing much more Except for one thing To miss it is sore

Elizabeth Hrycyna Second Place, Fourth Grade Cambridgeport School



Picking Me Up

Mom and dad picked me up.

Something different.

Something new.

Mom and dad are talking.

Something good.

Something happy.

Mom and dad said "good work."

They hug me.

Something love.

Something warm.

And we went back home to see my friends.

I feel love.

Where I'm From

I am from a clean house.
I am from the junk under my bed.
Piles and piles of super heroes' drawings.

I am from the basketball hoop, the net that reminds me of my hair. I am from the chocolate mousse and orange juice.

I'm from the smart heads and the chatty's, from the nicknames my parents call me.

I am from my mom and dad's cousins, who always swim like me.

I am from lamb stew and Gatorade. From the reading by the fire nights, From its loud crackling roar of a mix of fire and sparks.

In my room a box filled of old pictures spills out, a box that reminds me of My dogs, as old as can be.

I am from those moments.

Malcolm Scannell Third Place, Third Grade Cambridge Friends School

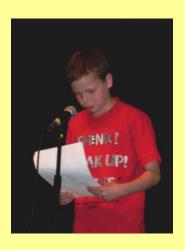


I am From...

I am from TV and books, Stuffed animals, Sitting in my bed, Waiting to be hugged at bedtime.

I am from my Aunt's house, My bed, and my grandma's house— Places I feel safe.

I am from "Don't be a nosy parker!" and



"You're going to drive me cookoo bananas!"

I am from Maggie and Charlotte, My two little cousins.

I am from cake, And waffles, And my mom's macaroni and cheese, The elbow I twisted, And the knee my mom sprained.

Next to my bed, Is a bag of books, Including my journal, Memories, Never to be forgotten.

I am from my family, My friends, And my teacher.

I am from my house, And my wonderful life And from you, for reading my poem.

Lila Cardillo Second Place, Third Grade Cambridge Friends School

Ánima

Una historia de 5000 años Corre a través mi sangre

4000 millas de la Gran Muralla de China Erigen mi espina

Las arenas del Rio Amarillo Teñen mi piel.

Las noches oscuros de Ningxia Manchan mis ojos

Mareas sueltas de seda Enredan mi pelo

Los pasos de 1.3 billón Crean mi batido del corazón Mi cultura es Mi sangre Me espina Mi piel Mis ojos Mi pelo Mi corazón

Quién soy Sin esto?

Soul

A history of 5000 years Races through my blood

4000 miles of the Great Wall Erects my spine

Sands of the Yellow River Stain my skin

Dark nights of Ningxia Dye my eyes

Flowing tides of silk Entangle my hair

Footsteps of a marching 1.3 billion Create the beat of my heart.

My culture is My blood My spine My skin My eyes My hair

Who am I Without it?

My heart

Kevin Xiong Second Place, Eighth Grade Peabody School

(Kevin's entry also included a Chinese version of his poem. We regret we are unable to reproduce it here)

Yo soy

Yo soy de tre países millas de distancia Dos rasagan por guerras El resto nacido de uno

La tierra de mì padre es Sin vida Edificios rotos basura en las calles Iglesias antiguas, mezquitas Que quemen Està lloviendo cenizas Cotidiana

La tierra de mi madre està Viviendo, pero triste Resceptando una familia muerte Està recordando la Guerra Mientras un hijo Va al ejèrcito Rato hijo otro rendimiento

La tierra de mi nacida es Nueva, luchando Por ahì solo dos cientos años de edad Una naciòn construida de Hamburguesa envoltorios y bolsas de Doritos Un paìs con oportunidad Y una enonomia bajando

Yo soy europea, asiàtica, Americana Soy de antiguo Yugoslavia/Serbia, Corea del Sur, El EEUU Es complicada.

1 Am

I am of three countries miles apart Two torn apart by wars The remaining born from one.

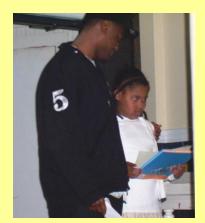
The land of my father is
Lifeless
Broken buildings litter the streets
Ancient churches, mosques
They burn
Raining ashes
Everyday

The land of my mother is Alive, but sad Respecting dead family Remembering the war As a son Goes to the army While another son returns

The land of my birth is
New, struggling
Only around 200 years old
A nation built on
Hamburger wrappers and Doritos bags
A country of opportunity
And a declining economy

I am European, Asian, American I am of former Yugoslavia/Serbia, South Korea, The U.S. It's complicated.

Morning Star Second Place, Eighth Grade Peabody School



Nadaija Lauture Honorable Mention, Third Grade Tobin School

Flu Shot

Up son
Oh No get down!
The flu shot is coming around
It will hurt so bad
"Suck it up" said my dad
Up son
Oh No get down!
The flu shot is coming around
It's over Hey That Iollipop tastes so good
I wish I could...
CRACK!!
Oh No! get down
The dentist is coming around.

Brown doesn't look good on me

Not a happy day.

Not a happy day,
at all.

The first sunshine,
Birds coming back,
spring
not happy.

Funerals are never happy.

Folded tables, and chairs.

Threw away the scattered mourning leftovers: tissues.

We left,
Wanted to mourn
more
but we didn't have time
now
we had to celebrate.

His 70th
At 60 he thought he was going to die
Like his father
Grandpa didn't die.

He was smiling, big and proud; Birthdays are always smily, and happy. Funerals never are.

After dinner, mom and dad drive back home but I don't, me and my sister don't

He wants to show us Brown. He went to Brown. Grandpa loves Brown. He's proud of Brown and wants to show it off.

He does, pretty buds on pretty trees, soft smells, but my frown and tearstained cheeks are tell tale: I want to mourn.

He wants us to get Brown shirts, we look around, pull some over our heads, even though we know they're gonna be too tight. but "You're taking too long!" and he walks out, of the store onto the student filled streets.

Abouelita stays, and we buy shirts.

We've started packing up the car, and finally he comes.
Grandpa,
with his sweaty brow,
his big back and arms
and mouth.
He yells,
but we can't cry.

We didn't love Brown.
We didn't like Brown.
We didn't try to like Brown,
and I know his words are true.
His harsh,
Loud,
big mouth words.

I don't like my Brown shirt. Brown doesn't look good on me.

Maria Alejandra Trumble Third Place, Eighth Grade Amigos School

Behind the Mask

They say each second of her life Has been a mistake

On her eighteenth birthday That is when they will all say Good bye

A normal teenage girl on the outside A broken, suffered girl on the inside Her delicate skin and body frame Bruised Her fragile heart Shatterred...

With the smile on her face You will never see The pain In her Eyes

And if you were to look Deep inside her soul There you will see A Destroyed girl Hiding behind That Fake Grin.

Katyana Morency Second Place, Eighth Grade Amigos School



Little Bro's

Little bro's Are supposed to be Cute Smart And they're supposed to look up to You I know mine do But what they don't tell you Is that They're sticky They cling to you Like burrs on clothes Sure they like you But really They only cling If you're the only one Who doesn't think They were sent from god Little bro's Are like tape They stick With gooey popsicle fingers And that papier mache feeling Fresh from kindergarten projects And if strong enough Are really

Hard

To get off.

But little bro's

Are also

Family

You hold their hands

On the first

Day of kindergarten

Push them

On a swing

And they'll cry

If you stop

So you don't

Because you love it

You want

To make him laugh

Smile

Even though

He's a pain sometimes

Because

He is

Your little bro

So please

Push him higher

Help him touch the sun

Imani Sherley First Place, Sixth Grade Shady Hill School

Friends

Diamonds and rubies are really cool

but not as precious as you.

The person that was there for me from when I was just two,

It was a friend.

The fun and laughs we had together are in my head,

being memories forever.

It was a friend.

The person that gave me their shoulder to cry,

she's so nice that she would never lie,

It was a friend.

The person that stood up for me

from beginning to end, you are a really, really true friend.

This poem is dedicated to my friends Sofia and Hanna, who I think are the best friends in the world.

Roots

Connecting network
Giving sustenance to tree
Living underground

Keven Santos Third Place, Seventh Grade Fletcher Maynard Academy

Romantic Trees

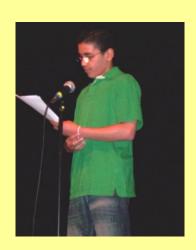
Growing together. Leaves kissing with each soft wind Every single day.

Jason Barbosa Third Place, Seventh Grade Fletcher Maynard Academy

When I See Your Face

When I see your face it's like the night full of stars.

Your eyes are like water under the sky shining into my heart



Kelvin Santiago Honorable Mention, Fourth Grade Amigos School

Doughnuts

Take a halo from an angel
Dunk it in sugar
Fry it
Set it on the shelf
With others.
Tens of them lying
In the little glass case
In the little store
On the corner.



Henry Feinstein First Place, Sixth Grade Shady Hill School (thanks for the doughnuts!)

Chocolate, Filled, Maple, You stare at them Your eyes prying Trying to get one to hover In front of your mouth So you can take a sweet, Heavenly, Bite Closing your eyes While you chew slowly, Contemplating how Such a simple idea Can be turned into a Paradise With a hole in the middle. Chocolate, Filled, Maple They are all there In the little glass case In the little store On the corner That seems to glow Like a halo



Walnut

From an angel.

Like a fortress
Almost impenetrable
But if you get through the walls
You will find a treasure
Simple but precious
So simple that some people
Don't recognize it for what it really is
A true work of art

Coby Gray Third Place, Fifth Grade Fayerweather Street School



Pierce Laing First Place, Fifth Grade Shady Hill School

The Pear

A pale emerald hue,
Speckled with dots,
A jewel of lush trees of jade.
One bite and it explodes with juice,
Filling your mouth,
With the essence of joy.

Listening to Opera

the solid was of brass
which should be the theme
but isn't.
with fluttering changes it carries
no form
no structure
Wagner writes
like someone who can't
keep up a conversation

whereas Verdi to whom everything should be a song a waltz

And harmonies should be multiples of three.

one isn't better than the other.
one German
one Italian
but when Italy was dwelling still
on Christianity
Germany had moved on

Germany had moved on to witches and fairies

Nazism in music is exciting a solid wall of brass glorious as a utopian paradise.

> Maybe it's wrong. Maybe it's just Opera

but Verdi is still Verdi And Wagner is still Wagner Liam Bodwell Second Place, Eighth Grade Amigos School

Pencil

Pencils are trail guides leading your hand across the page to the new world that is begging you to put it in words for many eyes to see and admire, they are wooden masterpieces that work miracles every day. pencils are wands with infinite power of words, punctuation, abbreviation and culture.

Bedtime for Me

I see my dad's sweet face and the soft light seeping through the slightly open bathroom door. I hear my dad's heavy breathing the peaceful crinkle of the sheets nothing much is said only talk about tomorrow and what happened today. I always have that tired lazy feeling with my head laying on my perfect pillow.

Julian Baxandall First Place, Third Grade Amigos School

> It's the hobo at the corner and the garbage smelling scent, with the noises booming loudly and the laundry blowing vent.

With the pushcarts and the sellers and the hotels occupied,

the construction workers work with sweat running down their eyes.

It's the hobo at the corner and a garbage smelling scent, with the noises booming loudly, It's the city, what the heck!

Sara Hauf Second Place, Fourth Grade Amigos School

Trapped

I was living in the countryside where day come to stay and the outside world was no more.

I was in my house crying for Peace to come. I was trapped and I knew it.

My world has been broken by the ones who didn't have faith and didn't care. I couldn't do anything about it because I was trapped.

Trapped in this cruel world where no one has respect for each other, trapped where I could not speak for myself and if I did there would be no dinner tonight. If I tried to break loose from this trapped world, I would break out into tears because I was in the hole of sadness.



Kester Messan Third Place, Fourth Grade Cambridgeport School

FREEDOM

FREEDOM
I WANT MY VOICE
TO RING
FROM MOUNTAIN TOPS
I WANT PEOPLE TO LISTEN
TO WHAT
I HAVE TO
SAY
FREEDOM
I WANT TO SHINE BRIGHTER

THAN A SHOOTIN' STAR THE CENTER OF ATTENTION IN A SEA **OF STARS FREEDOM** I WANT TO FLOW WITH EVERLASTING PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE **FLOW** AS IF I WERE THE WATER THE SILKY SILVER WATER IN THE MOON'S FOUNTAIN **FREEDOM**

Wynther Gedeon First Place, Seventh Grade Amigos School

Inaugural Poem



I am from old objects, Like the Bible that every President since Lincoln has been sworn in on.

From "I have a dream," to "yes we can."

I have experienced George Washington to Barack Obama, And big changes as every President goes by.

I have no voice nor body, House nor home.

Yet everybody seems to have their own opinions and feelings about me. Some love or hate me,

Others feel scared, confident, anxious, and some even calm.

I have no feelings about myself as I am not capable of having them.

In case you are wondering, I am the inauguration.

Zoe Goldstein First Place, Fourth Grade Cambridge Friends School

Tuesday at noon

The energy bouncing off the snow and ice, Rebounding from the tightly closed windowpanes of houses. It shines, Glints, Pride Has been born

In the eyes
Of the world
And the people
Who are there as observers and
Witnesses
The snow continues to fall
And history is made
Tuesday at noon.

Phoebe Reuben First Place, Eighth Grade Amigos School

Sunset

Soft gold light that illuminates the trees, The gentle blowing of a cool breeze. Buildings silhouetted against the pale sky, The sweet song of a bird on the fly. Clouds of purple, pink and white Clear the way for the velvet night.



Sophie E. Pesek Honorable Mention, Fifth Grade Shady Hill School